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	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	09/942,074	FRITZ ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jerome Grant II	2626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to _____.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-27*.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some*   c)☐ None   of the:

        1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the

           International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a)☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

        1)☐ hereto or 2)☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    (b)☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of

        Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

JEROME GRANT II
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with Dan Hayes on September 26, 2005.

In the claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended by the Examiner). A method of processing an

image, comprising:

determining a source pixel value of a first bit depth for a source pixel in a source

image:

    determining a destination pixel value f the first bit depth for a destination pixel in a

destination image, the destination pixel corresponding to the source pixel;

    deriving a blended pixel value of the first bit depth for a blended pixel in a blended

image by applying an alpha value of a second bit depth to the source pixel value and

the destination pixel value without converting the pixel values to the second bit depth;

and   wherein the second bit depth is greater than the first bit depth.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended by the Examiner).

A system for processing an image, comprising:

memory;

a processor;

a source image stored in the memory, the source image consisting of

multiple source pixels, each source pixel having a source pixel value of a first bit depth;

a destination image stored in the memory, the destination image consisting of multiple destination pixels, each destination pixel having a destination pixel value of the first bit depth;

one or more alpha values having a second bit depth stored in the memory;

a source dither matrix stored in the memory;

an alpha dither matrix derivation module configured to derive an alpha dither matrix from the source dither matrix;

a source mask plane derivation module configured to create a source mask plane of the first depth from the one or more alpha values and the alpha dither matrix;

a destination mask plane derivation module configured to create a destination mask plane of the first depth from the source bitonal mask plane; and

a blended image generator configured to create a blended image of the first bit depth from the source image, the destination image, the source mask plane and the destination mask plane, without converting the images to the second bit depth.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jerome Grant II whose telephone number is 571-272-7463. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thur. from 9:00 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly A. Williams, can be reached on Mon.-Thurs.. The fax phone

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JEROME GRANT II
PRIMARY EXAMINER

J. Grant II

Reasons for Allowance

1.

Claims 1-15 are allowed for the reason the prior art does not teach or suggest in claimed combination, "... deriving a blended pixel value of the first bit depth for a blended pixel in a blended image by applying an alpha value of a second bit depth to the source pixel value and the destination pixel value without converting the pixel values to the second bit depth..."

Claims 16-22 is allowed for the reason the prior art does not teach or suggest in claimed combination, "... a source mask plain derivation module configured to create a source mask lane of the first depth from the one or more alpha values and the alpha dither matrix.. a destination mask plane derivation module configured to create a destination mask plane of the first depth from the source bitonal mask plane and a blended image generator configured to create a blended image of the first bit depth from the source image, the destination image, the source mask plane and the destination mask plane, without converting the images to the second bit depth."

Claims 23-27 are allowed for the reason the prior art does not teach or suggest, "... applying the source bitonal mask plane to the bitonal source image to derive a first intermediate value; applying the destination bitonal mask plane to the bitonal destination image to derive a second intermediate value; logically adding the first intermediate value and the second intermediate value to derive the blended bitonal image. "

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the
examiner should be directed to Jerome Grant II whose telephone number is 571-272-
7463. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs. from 9:00 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's
supervisor, Kimberly A. Williams, can be reached on 571-272-7471. The fax phone
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